

4/29/13

Notes from the Hamilton Town Council

Our meeting opened with public comments and information on the recent Earlville elections—with Mayor Excel and trustees Moore and Hayes retaining their positions.

In addition to updates on road work around town, Highway Superintendent Glazier reported on an increase in our “CHIPS” money. CHIPS, a NY state program, provides funds to local municipalities to help with local street and highway improvement. It was also reported that our solar panels are slated for a May installation at the Town garage, just in time for sunny weather!

A Record’s Retention project was recently initiated to tackle the accumulation of documents and records in the Town office. The project’s goal is to preserve and properly store important documents that must be kept by law, and to recycle all the rest. Thanks to Councilor Todd, Bookkeeper Sue Reymers, and volunteer Regini Silverstri for taking this on, and thanks to Colgate for providing easily accessible work space for the project in the former Parry’s building.

Sean Graham and Margaret Miller from the Village of Hamilton joined us to discuss the Village’s work on the gas utility. The Village would like to set-up a gas franchise with the Town of Hamilton. The gas utility is currently set to only deliver gas to homes and businesses within the Village of Hamilton. The creation of the franchise would allow the possibility of bringing gas to areas beyond the village borders, but still within the Town of Hamilton. A public hearing on the franchise will be held at the May 9 Town Council meeting.

Dr. Merrill Millera, a SOMAC board member, reported on the progress of their fundraising campaign. We continued our discussion of the best way to support SOMAC, the possibility of a taxing district, and what local resources were available to help plot a course to sustainability.

After meeting with planner Nan Stolzenberg, the Town Council agreed to hire her to work with us on the comprehensive plan review and update. We will form a Comprehensive Plan committee to oversee the work, with help from our Energy Working Group, Planning and Zoning Boards. The Town is fortunate in having good local academic, environmental and community resources to assist with the project as well.

William Nolan, Mary Galvez and Darrell Griff were appointed by the Town Council to serve three year terms on the Planning Board. Many thanks to Larry Crumb and Pat McGaugh for their years of service on that board.

The Hamilton Town Council meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Town of Hamilton office in the Village of Hamilton at 7pm. Our next regular meeting is Thursday, May 9 2013. We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org/>

Submitted by
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